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Huntsville Center

# Bulletin

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## Huntsville Center issues \$388 million in contracts to several U.S. firms

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, June 6, awarded contracts not to exceed a total of \$388 million, to four U.S. contractors.

The contracts were awarded to the following four firms: Syska Hennessy Group Construction, Inc., of Los Angeles, Calif.; BMAR & Associates, LLC, of Hopkinsville, Ky.; J&J Maintenance, Inc., of Austin, Texas; and John J. Kirlin Special Projects, LLC, of Rockville, Md.

These contracts require

the firms to provide quick response for medical facility repair, renovation, conversion, alteration, additions, construction, equipment procurement/installation, and maintenance services on installed equipment systems at government medical facilities, officially identified as Medical Repair and Renewal (MRR).

The contractors shall also provide site investigations and reports, feasibility studies, work plans/designs, and construction or repair/renewal efforts to include

architectural, mechanical, electrical, civil, structural, instrumentation, communications, security, force protection, safety, systems and cost, as well as environmental and hazardous materials abatement of government medical facilities.

These contracts are Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contracts, base year with four option years.

The firms will perform work throughout the continental U.S., District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and U.S. territories and possessions.

## Redstone Arsenal to start gate refresh in preparation for Automated Installation Entry system

By Chris Gardner  
Public Affairs Office

**T**he Army is ushering in the next generation of installation access at gates across the world — Automated Installation Entry (AIE) — and the Access Control Point Program (ACPP) at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is poised to play a major role as that becomes reality.

These AIE gates will read radio frequency



Photo by Debra Valine

See AIE system on page 11

Gate 3 at Redstone Arsenal is one of five gates that will be upgraded in August in preparation for an Automated Installation Entry System scheduled for FY10.

# Commander's thoughts

**F**irst, I would like to say how saddened I am to announce that Huntsville Center lost a valuable employee, Diane Mims, in a car accident last month. She was on her way to work when she experienced what officials are calling a medical episode and ran off the road. Diane had been a long-time Huntsville Center employee, working in the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate. Our prayers are with her family at this difficult time. She will be missed.

On a different, but related note, summer has just started and we're already hearing reports on fatalities at Corps of Engineers recreation areas. Over the Memorial Day weekend there were 12 fatalities at Corps facilities around the country. Most of the fatalities were from drowning. One common cause regardless of how the person ended up in the water and

drowned was NONE of the victims were wearing personal floatation devices (PFD, a.k.a., life jackets or vests).

All these fatalities were preventable. When your leisure activity involves fun in or on the water, be sure to prepare for the unexpected. We need you to keep Huntsville Center moving steadily from good to great!

As we move into July, we are continuing our ACE-IT transition. We got off to a rocky start, but have improved and gained momentum along the way. You can expect this when you are the first to do something. As of June 24, 123 computers at the Center had been refreshed and are working as expected. Another 56 are

in the process of being refreshed with issues being worked on a case-by-case basis. I ask that you continue to have

patience with this transition and rest assured that we are working hard with ACE-IT to make sure that when your computer systems are refreshed that you are 100 percent satisfied with the results.

In June we also experienced a near seamless transition from CEFMS signature cards

to the Common Access Card, making us the only Corps organization with this capability. Once again, Huntsville Center leads the way for the Corps!

I hope you had the opportunity to



**Col. Larry D. McCallister**

**See Commander on page 3**

## Hails and farewells

### Welcome to new employees —

**Caitlin Allison**, Engineering Directorate; **Terry Boesch**, Contracting Directorate; **Amber Bower**, Business Management Office; **Jeffrey Denton**, Engineering Directorate; **Jill Greenlee**, Contracting Directorate; **Susan Hamilton**, Engineering Directorate; **Loren Krause**, ACE-IT; **Reneda Ocomy**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Patricia Phillips**, Contracting Directorate; **Jason Polk**, Contracting Directorate; **Braden L. Preston**, Engineering Directorate; **Barbara Ransom**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Rachel Ray**, Engineering Directorate; **Aaron Renfro**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Blue Grass Resident Office;

**Phillip Rippe**, Engineering Directorate; **Stephen Shankle**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; **Gavin Smith**, Contracting Directorate; **Willie Stokes**, ACE-IT; and **Robert Whiteley**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate.

**Farewells — Preston Bonner**, Information Management Directorate; **Fred Bourgeois**, Information Management Directorate; **David Burford**, Engineering Directorate; **Chris Gardner**, Public Affairs Office; **Judy Griffin**, Information Management Directorate; **Brandy Hyche**, Contracting Directorate; **Alan Brian Mitchell**, Management Review Office; **Georganne Ramsey**, Resource Management Directorate; and **Frances Specht**, Information Management Directorate.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

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## BULLETIN

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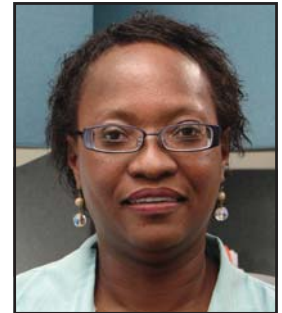
## ***What do you do to celebrate July 4th?***



Brandon Hicks  
Engineering Directorate

**We usually have a cookout, just relax and spend time with the family.**

**Spending time with family and the watching the fireworks is what I look forward to most. I also celebrate America's Independence Day by being thankful of the "freedoms" brave men and women sacrificed for.**



Jae Steele  
Contracting Directorate



Deborah H. Hall  
Internal Review

**To celebrate the 4th of July, first of all I am very thankful for God's blessings, for my freedom and for the U.S. military. I like to go swimming or water skiing early in the morning. Later the kids and I purchase fireworks. For dinner we grill out and have family and friends over. After dark several neighbors get together and shoot off fireworks; however, generally this does not last too long because I only live 2 miles from the police station.**

## **Commander**

**continued from page 2**

enjoy some of the Armed Forces Week activities; I know I did. Huntsville and Madison County really support the military and defense community, and it showed with the many wonderful events they had scheduled.

After the 4th of July holiday, July should be a

bit quieter than some past months, but then again, unpredictable problems are what we are best at solving for our customers, which is what keeps them coming back. We're continuing with recruit actions to get the right people on the Huntsville Center bus. We have the ISO Surveillance Audit team returning July 23-24 to check on the status of

the findings from their last visit.

July is FY09 budget preparation month. As part of that effort, supervisors need to check Individual Development Plans and enter requirements for training into the system to ensure we have enough training dollars earmarked in the budget.

With summer finally here, I urge you to take time to

enjoy the warm weather and outdoor activities with family and friends. The end-of-year activities will be upon us before we know it!

Thanks for the super job that you are all doing in support of our military members, their families and the nation. It is important stuff that we do, and you are the best at doing it!



# Facilities Reduction project mitigates explosive hazard at Tooele depot

By Debra Valine  
Public Affairs Office

## TOOELE ARMY DEPOT, Utah

— A project to remove an ammunition processing building at Tooele Army Depot presented an explosive challenge to the Facilities Reduction group at the Huntsville Center.

Building 1245, which was used as a munitions (Trinitrotoluene [TNT]) washout facility, contained equipment likely coated with unknown amounts of explosive residue that made traditional demolition dangerous.

The building contained equipment that was too large to remove and had to be rendered “safe” for unrestricted release as scrap before the building could be demolished. To get to that point in the project, Huntsville Center had to ensure the explosive danger was eliminated.

Larry McFarland, the project manager at Tooele, and Huntsville Center Technical Manager Kevin Healy turned to PIKA International, a company that uses a process called thermal convection, to destroy explosive residue. Thermal convection uses controlled heat from a standard source, similar to how a self-cleaning oven works, to destroy explosive residue in a building, rendering it safer for a “near normal” demolition effort.

Using a thermal convection system (TCS) is a first for Huntsville Center.

Finding innovative solutions for facility removal is not new for Huntsville Center. Each project is unique and project managers look for the best technical method of removal at the least cost to the customer. Other examples of creative facility removal have included implosion, sealed bid auctions and the establishment of a

directed demolitions team.

“PIKA’s proposal to prepare the building using the TCS and demolition of Bldg. 1245, resulted in a savings to the government of approximately 60 percent of the original program costs,” Healy said.

Preliminary demolition activities started May 29. Demolition is expected to be complete by early to mid-July.

PIKA may be able to speed that process up just a bit. When the initial preparatory operations were conducted at the site June 15, hidden explosive residue exploded, causing the corrugated tin building shell to crumble and come off the steel beam frame.

“That will save us a lot of man-hours,” said Paul Ihrke, the vice president of Federal Programs for PIKA. “This really helped the demolition process along. The tin can now be sent to the recycling facility without further processing.”

The initial operation was conducted according to work plan and approved explosives safety submission and executed flawlessly with no one getting injured, Ihrke said.

“We do this to get to any hidden residue,” said Lloyd George, the PIKA senior unexploded ordnance supervisor at the site. “We maintain the maximum safety distance of 2,373 feet, which is the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board-approved Minimum Separation Distance before we conducted the venting operations. No one was in the area on Sunday (June 15).”

PIKA is building an insulated enclosure around the TNT washout facility equipment so that any explosive residue on the equipment can be burned off with the TCS. The



Photo by Debra Valine

Bill Menzl, PIKA International, seats a panel, which is part of the enclosure being built around equipment at Tooele Army Depot. The enclosure is part of a Thermal Convection System that will be used to burn off trace explosive residue so the equipment can be cut up and recycled as part of a Facilities Reduction Program project at Tooele, near Salt Lake City, Utah.

See Tooele on page 11

# Medical Support Team receives award from Office of Surgeon General

By Becky Proaps  
Public Affairs Office

**T**he Huntsville Center Medical Support Team received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Office of the Surgeon General in June for the team's exceptional commitment and dedication to the U.S. Army Medical Department from October 2005 to September 2007.

The MST includes the Integrated Modular Medical Support System team, the Medical Repair and Renewal team, and the Operation and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement team.

"All of the teams (OMEE, MRR, IMMSS) work very hard to support the Army Medical Command and it makes us feel very good when our customer recognizes our hard work," said Crystal Bennett Echols, program manager for the MRR program. "It

definitely takes a team effort to be successful. I am very thankful that we have such a wonderful team."

Collectively the three teams that make up the MST provide support to the U.S. Army Medical Department by executing repair, renovation, maintenance and modular furniture requirements. In FY07 MRR executed more than \$94 million for this customer. OMEE executed more than \$35 million and IMMSS executed more than \$18 million for this customer.

The award was originally presented to Bennett Echols by Col. Guy T. Kiyokawa, representing the MEDCOM customer, at a Quarterly Line Item Review in Mobile, Ala.

Members of the MRR team include Crystal Bennett Echols (program manager), Michael Mollineaux, Sherene Opichka, Mike Hunter, Rex McLaury, Roger Brosemer, Rob Mackey, Lt. Col. James



Photo by Jenny Stripling

**Joe Serena, left, program manager for Integrated Modular Medical Support System, Crystal Bennett Echols, program manager for Medical Repair and Renewal team, and Douglas Wilson, program manager for Operation and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement team, accepted a Certificate of Appreciation from the Office of the Surgeon General on behalf of the three teams from Col. Larry D. McCallister, commander, Huntsville Center, during the Engineer Day awards ceremony June 16.**

K. D'Arienzo, Cheryl Renz-Olar, Delores Davis, Nancy Wilhite, Paul Daugherty, Althea Rudolph, Donna Parker, Cassandra Mora, Nina Green, Glenda Humphrey, Lisa Mitchell, Brandon Hunt, Adam Sunstrom, Steve Talley, John Crow, Freddy Steele, Gail Wilbur, Shawn Willie, Julie Friddle and Victor Taylor.

The OMEE team includes Doug Wilson (program manager), Karen Gentry, Ruth Smith, Susan Parsons,

Melissa Jennings, Carla Dailey, Tom Corcoran, Rick Owens Terri Llewellyn, Michele Petty and Marna Harless.

The IMMSS team is comprised of Joe Serena (program manager), Jennifer Cagle, Demetria Chunn and Earl Johnson.

Matrix team members that support all three teams include Cindy Halbrooks from Resource Management and Steve Feldman from Office of Counsel.

## Picnic time in Nebraska

**John Matthews, center, deputy for Programs and Technical Management, Huntsville Center, discusses the awards he will be presenting to employees at the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise Directorate picnic June 20 in Omaha, Neb., with Danna O'Neill, right, and Brenda Bremer. Ric Hines is sitting next to Matthews on the left and Dave Jaros is standing behind Hines.**



Courtesy photo



## Engineer Day celebrated June 16 with awards, cake

# ***Seven Huntsville Center employees, one***

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** —

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, recognized seven employees and one team for their service during its annual Engineer Day celebration June 16. The annual event commemorates the birthday of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which turned 233 years old June 16.

**Kristi L. Javins** was selected as Administrative Support Employee of the Year for her work as the secretary and principal administrative assistant to the Chief, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate. As the directorate merged with another directorate,



Photo by Becky Proaps

**Kristi L. Javins, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, Administrative Support Employee of the Year**

Javins was instrumental in making the merge seamless, ensuring organization codes and personnel actions were correct and coordinating with manpower to ensure



Photo by Jenny Stripling

**Gregory Vaughn, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Commander's Leadership Award**

the Integrated Manning Document correctly identified each employee.

**Gregory Vaughn,** Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, was awarded the Commander's



Photo by Becky Proaps

**Sandy L. Wood, Engineering Directorate, Employee of the Year**

Leadership Award for his superior leadership as the program manager for a 50-person design-construction team. He demonstrates a thorough understanding of the technical aspects of



Photo by Jenny Stripling

The Teamwork Award went to the Medical Repair and Renewal Program Team. Col. Larry D. McCallister, left, commander, Huntsville Center, celebrates the win with team members Donna Parker, Steve Tally, Delores Davis, Joe Serena, Lt. Col. James K. D'Arienzo, Cassandra Mora, Crystal Bennett Echols, Michael Mollineaux, Cheryl Renz-Olar, Sherene Opichka and Rex McLaury. Members of the team not pictured include Mike Hunter, Roger Brosemer, Robert Mackey, Jennifer Cagle, Gail Wilbur, Shawn Willie, Nancy Wilhite, Paul Daugherty, Althea Rudolph, Cindy Halbrooks, John Crow, Freddy Steele, Victor Taylor and Steve Feldman.

# team recognized for dedication, service



Photo by Becky Proaps

**Sheron Belcher, Engineering Directorate, Innovator of the Year**



Photo by Jenny Stripling

**Patrick Acosta, Engineering Directorate, Engineer of the Year**



Photo by Jenny Stripling

**Carol T. Sargent, Management Review Office, Contracting Professional of the Year**



Photo by Jenny Stripling

**Dawn Scott, Contracting Directorate, Volunteer of the Year**

Military Construction funding and consistently demonstrates innovative approaches in meeting the challenges of funding the right tasks to keep the project on track.

**Carol T. Sargent,** Management Review Office, accepted the Contracting Professional of the Year award. Sargent is the sole contracting professional assigned to MRO and is therefore responsible for initiating all contracting activities for the MRO mission.

**Sandy L. Wood,** Engineering Directorate, was named the Employee of the Year. Wood serves in several roles within the Mechanical and Manufacturing Technology Branch that impact the entire Center. He reviews all products produced by his team, ensuring all quality control requirements are met.

**Patrick Acosta,** Engineering Directorate, garnered the Engineer of the Year award. Acosta is a senior structural engineer in the Structural Branch. His area of expertise is in protective construction to mitigate the effects of accidental explosions.

**Sheron Belcher,** Engineering Directorate, was named the Innovator of the Year for directly improving the quality of the Request for Proposal writing process at Huntsville Center and for the Corps of Engineers. Her efforts successfully enabled a change in the way of doing business and improved RFP overall quality.

**Dawn Scott,** Contracting Directorate, was named Volunteer of the Year for spearheading Huntsville Center's 2007-2008 Combined Federal Campaign efforts, resulting

in the Center's contribution of \$79,139.65, the second highest amount ever contributed by Huntsville Center to CFC.

The **Medical Repair and Renewal Team** was awarded the Teamwork Award. Team members included Crystal Bennett Echols, Michael Mollineaux, Sherene Opichka, Mike Hunter, Rex McLaury, Roger Brosemer, Lt. Col. James D'Arienzo, Rob Mackey, Cheryl Renz-Olar, Joseph Serena, Jennifer

Cagle, Delores Davis, Gail Wilbur, Shawn Willie, Nancy Wilhite, Paul Daugherty, Althea Rudolph, Donna Parker, Cassandra Mora, Cindy Halbrooks, John Crow, Freddy Steel, Victor Taylor, Steve Feldman and Steve Talley. This team awarded more than \$112 million in medical facility repair and renovation projects in FY07 for customers and provided construction administration on more than 100 projects valued at approximately \$450 million.

**Wanda Hampton was one of 12 individuals honored at a town hall in April when Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, commanding general, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented each with his commander's coin. Hampton had been unable to attend the town hall and received the coin during the Engineer Day Awards program June 16.**



Photo by Jenny Stripling



# Going the distance: One man's journey to China offers new perspective on country

By Jenny Stripling  
Public Affairs Office

**F**ormulate an image of China in your mind. What do you envision? Maybe a bustling country with people in such close proximity that just taking a walk down the street is a journey in itself. In most ways it's true as China is the world's most populous country with more than 1.3 billion people. How about the 2008 Summer Olympics? China's capital city, Beijing, will be hosting the event this August.

For Dr. John Potter, director of the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, one thing that did not come to mind was bold architecture and engineering that is not only innovative but prevalent in the country today.

China was the exotic location of choice for Potter and 20 fellow travelers who met through an international church group. For 10 days a whole new world opened up to Potter and his group, who wanted to get a taste of what today's China was about.

After a 13-hour flight, the learning experience commenced upon touchdown in Beijing; the view from the plane window exposing a world of big modern facilities all serving a modern city and

country.

"The future of China is not rural, it's urban," Potter said. "We wanted to concentrate our travel mostly on bigger cities."

That image you may have had of the bustling streets is true, but according to Potter, everything moves together.

"Cars, bikes and buses all move in unison. They hold the philosophy that you give a gap, take a gap," Potter said. "We may have some old ideas about China as a third-world country but they are a world class society. They have a system and it works."

While Potter and his crew dined on traditional Chinese cuisine, usually consisting of some type of noodle or rice, meat dishes and a variety of vegetables, they could see both ancient and modern architecture functioning all around them.

Quite possibly the most recognized ancient architecture in Beijing is the Great Wall. Built, rebuilt and maintained between the 6th century B.C. and the 16th century to protect the northern borders of the Chinese Empire from attacks, the Great Wall stretches more than 4,000 miles.

Potter enjoyed a one-mile stretch of the wall, with a perfect view of the wall stretching high into the hazy sky, across the mountains while other stretches lie low among the river bottoms



Courtesy photo

**Dr. John Potter and his wife Frances, proudly show off their copy of the Huntsville Times while standing in front of the Great Wall of China.**

and plains.

"It was an impressive structure that had very interesting details from a military science perspective. Each of the towers along the wall was bow shot distance from each other, making intruders easy targets," Potter said.

If you have seen the movie, "The Last Emperor" you may remember seeing a child running through a huge palace. That child is Puyi, the last emperor of the Qing Dynasty and the last person to live in the Imperial Palace, also known as the Forbidden City. The name "Forbidden City" came from the belief that ordinary things could not enter the gates, as they were "forbidden." Now the Forbidden City is a popular tourist destination, open to everyone.

Beijing is organized in concentric circles. Potter

explained that the original palace inside the Forbidden City forms the center of Beijing, and the moat around the city makes up the first ring. Highways and roads out past that make up the rest of the rings, which make for some easy navigating throughout the city.

According to Potter, China is a happening place, where they want to be seen as world class. Therefore, they don't mind hiring outside help for architecture if it's impossible to use Chinese resources exclusively.

"I would recommend a trip to China to almost everyone," Potter said. "The picture we have here in the West is of a crowded, backward country that subsists by selling poor-quality goods painted with lead paint. China is much

**See Potter on page 9**



# Postcards from Iraq: Gotcha Bro

**Robert Bruce Mackey**  
U.S. Army Engineering and  
Support Center

## Commentary

**M**aking the decision to come to work in Iraq for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and leave the safety of home behind was tough. A big part of my decision was the fact that my twin brother (Matt) had done two tours already and would probably be doing a third here shortly.

Before I came over here, I found a picture he had sent me during Operation Iraqi Freedom III which was taken on our birthday. The photo was pretty neat. How many times do

you get a background like that?

Having dug up that photo, I made it a priority to see if I could surprise Matt with the same one as I would be over here for our 30th (birthday). After several weeks of hunting, I found the location at Palace Prosperity the day before I needed it. The next day, I attached the two photos and e-mailed them his way. It took about five minutes of explaining to him that they were not enhanced and actually the real deal.

I am glad I could do something

special like this and make my brother's day on our birthday. For me, this tour has a lot of those same qualities, being a great opportunity to do something worthwhile for the Iraqi people and to help many in Iraq. I realize the sooner the Corps can shore up the infrastructure and build the necessary facilities for the Iraqi people, the sooner our troops can head home. The mission is a tough one, but one we here at USACE can handle.

(Robert Bruce Mackey is the MNSTC-I Program Manager and Ramadi and Fallujah PM with the Gulf Region Central Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.)



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

**The Mackey twins, Matt, left, and Robert Bruce Mackey, celebrate their birth date at Prosperity Palace in Baghdad's International Zone during their separate tours in Iraq. Robert Mackey (better known as Rob to Huntsville Center) deployed to Iraq in March for nine months.**

## Potter

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more than that. It is a booming country of world-class arts and education, engineering, business and history. China is becoming a significant player in world affairs, and we need to understand and appreciate the role they play and how it affects our daily lives.

Anything less doesn't just make us innocent. It makes us ignorant and handicaps us in the global economy."

Potter's travel adventures did not begin in China. In fact he has been roaming around the world for about 50 years visiting such places as Morocco and most of Western Europe. Most recently his travels

took him to the northeast to backpack a section of the Appalachian Trail. That small section was 80 miles of winding trail, which took Potter a mere four days to cover, but he has had practice since he has been trekking the trail since 1964, bringing his total miles completed to 1,100.

## Fireworks safety tips: be safe, not sorry

To help you celebrate safely this July 4th, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety offer the following safety tips:



- Always read and follow label directions
- Always have an adult present
- Only buy from reliable fireworks sellers
- Only ignite fireworks outdoors

- Be sure to have water handy
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks
- Light only one at a time
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks
- Never give fireworks to small children
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place
- Dispose of fireworks properly
- Never throw fireworks at another person
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers

# Value engineering pays off for environmental projects

By Greg Mellema, PE  
Environmental and Munitions  
Center of Expertise (EM CX)

In 2007, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began a collaborative effort to conduct value engineering (VE) studies for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Program.

The Huntsville Engineering and Support Center, Directorate of

Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EM CX), located in Omaha, Neb., has completed nine VE Studies for EPA so far, with significant results and realized benefits.

"I believe the program has been a tremendous success by providing real value to projects, in terms of improved quality, enhanced construction methods, reduction in waste volume generated and financial savings," said Lindsey Lien, VE program manager at the EM CX. "Our VE team, led by a certified value specialist, is a dynamic and experienced group, engaged with the entire design team to ensure that VE results enhance the value of a project by increasing benefit and/or reducing unnecessary resource utilization."

Results from the VE studies are substantial. For the nine projects studied, the remedial action cost estimates total \$217,600,000 with VE recommendations totaling \$30,295,000, an average of 13.9 percent in reduced costs to the project. The average cost to conduct a VE Study is \$52,000, representing a 65:1 benefit/cost ratio.

The VE initiative complements the other optimization methodologies developed in large part at the EM CX. These programs include: Technical

Project Planning (TPP) which is used extensively to cost effectively plan data acquisition requirements over the life of a remedial action; and the EPA Remediation System Evaluation (RSE) process used for optimizing operational remediation systems.

"A good VE study does require some upfront planning and coordination," Lien said. "Typically, from project initiation to final report, a study will take approximately three to four months, with the bulk of the time allocated to upfront design review and coordination. Once the team assembles on site, the VE team meets for two to four days, with the final report being provided about four to six weeks later. In addition to supporting EPA, our team is now positioned to conduct VE studies for environmental projects executed under Formerly Used Defense Sites, the Defense Environmental Restoration Program and other programs as well."

If you have questions or would like additional information about the Value Engineering process, please contact Lindsey Lien, at 402-697-2580, or e-mail: [lindsey.k.lien@usace.army.mil](mailto:lindsey.k.lien@usace.army.mil), or Greg Mellema, at 402-697-2658, e-mail: [gregory.j.mellema@usace.army.mil](mailto:gregory.j.mellema@usace.army.mil).



Photo by Lindsey Lien

The Value Engineering team visits the Bountiful Woods Cross Superfund Site in Utah.

## AIE system

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identification tags on car windshields and scan identification cards, rather than have a person visually check ID cards as people enter installations.

Redstone Arsenal, is on the list of installations that will get the upgrade. Work to upgrade the infrastructure at five Redstone gates is set to start in late October.

"We will be upgrading the infrastructure at gates 1, 3, 7, 8 and 10, and also installing barriers at gates 1, 8 and 10," said Amy Venable, a project manager with Huntsville Center's Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate. "\$1.7 million is budgeted to improve the ACPs and get them ready for the AIE install scheduled for fiscal year 2010."

Upgrades will include installing conduit for AIE system equipment, new guard booths and canopies with lighting. Typically these upgrades take about six months, Venable said.

Partners on this project include Williams Electric of Arab, Ala.; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile

District; LaRue Wisener, Physical Security at Redstone Arsenal; Joe Skinner, Redstone Department of Public Works; Khaleelah Muhammad, Directorate of Information Management; Kim Torrence, project engineer with Huntsville Center's Engineering Directorate; and Brian Erickson with the Protective Design Center at Omaha District, Corps of Engineers.

This work is not in response to an incident at Redstone Arsenal June 6 where police chased suspects onto the Arsenal, resulting in a crash and death of a Marshall Space Flight Center employee and injuries to five other employees.

In October 2002, the Army's Product Manager for Force Protection Systems (PM-FPS) selected the Huntsville Center to plan and manage this gate upgrade initiative to include survey, design, purchase and installation of ACP equipment at all Army installations. Since that time, the program has evolved into two sub-programs under ACP; Access Control Point Equipment Program

and Automated Installation Entry Program. The ACP efforts are executed in conjunction with the priorities established by the office of the Provost Marshal General and as directed by PM-FPS.

AIE is already a reality at Fort Hood, Texas.

Fort Hood, on its own initiative, built the Army's first AIE system — the Phantom Express.

With AIE in place, payroll was reduced an estimated \$6 million annually at Fort Hood due to fewer guards being necessary.

Michael Norton, the program manager for Huntsville Center's ACP program, said the Phantom Express was used as a starting point to develop a system that can be duplicated and used at installations around the world. The Center also has been tasked with making sure the new AIE system meets all Armywide gate security regulations.

Huntsville Center is installing AIE prototypes at Letterkenny Army Depot, Pa., and Fort Carson, Colo. Norton said those two

installations were chosen because they represent different sizes of installations.

"Letterkenny is a smaller post with a high percentage of Civilians, and Fort Carson is more your traditional large base with a high turnover of its population of Soldiers and their families," Norton said. "This way we can see how the system performs in two different sets of conditions."

Norton said Huntsville Center is intricately involved in making sure the existing programs can seamlessly work together.

However, AIE brings more important security improvements, said Thad Stripling with the ACP program.

"The improved vetting of credentials and overall improved security on installations is the ultimate goal of automation," Stripling said. "Cards will be read and verified versus having someone just look at them. While providing more thorough checks of credentials, the system will also allow installations to keep a record of who is coming on post and when."

## Tooele

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combination of the enclosure and the TCS create a portable oven to destroy the hidden explosive residue. It burns propane that is routed into the enclosure.

Two TCS units will operate at around 750 degrees Fahrenheit for six to seven hours to remove any explosive residue. The residual ash can be wiped off, just like a self-

cleaning oven.

"We take anything of hazard out of the building and place all the pipes and other pieces of equipment on top of the TNT washout machine," George said. "Everything that might have explosive residue on it will fit into the enclosure being built for the operation."

"The concrete will be busted up and reused on site as clean hard fill

for sumps or sent off-site for recycling," said Lewis Kovarik, PIKA's on-site safety officer. "The steel and tin will be cut up and sent to a recycling facility. When we're finished, there won't be anything left.

"Everything leaving Tooele will have a chain of custody letter explaining that the material is free of explosives," Kovarik said.



# Ethics Corner

## Ethical ins, outs of official speaking invitations

By **Walter Roberts**  
**Office of Counsel,**  
**Omaha**

**Y**ou hang up the phone and turn to your co-worker in the next cubicle. You tell your friend that you just got invited to speak to the Florida Association of Engineers on the Corps of Engineers Environmental Program. What a deal! You speak for an hour and the Army pays your trip to Florida and the FAE (Florida Association of Engineers) pays for free attendance at their conference, free dinner, and a free pass to the Vendor Fair they are hosting. This seems too good to be true.

After contemplation you realize that maybe it is too good to be true and maybe you should consult your Office of

Counsel. Your friendly Counsel informs you that the rules for this situation come from the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER), DoD 5500.7-R.

DoD 5500.7-R, Section 3-211a, says that a DoD employee can be assigned in his official capacity to participate as a speaker, panel member or to otherwise provide information on behalf of the agency at an event hosted by a non-federal entity, like FAE. The employee may accept free attendance at the event on the day of his presentation from the sponsor of the event. "Free attendance" may include waiver of all or part of a conference fee and the provision of food and refreshments. As an invited guest speaker, you may attend the dinner, that day of the conference, and partake in food and refreshments in your official capacity at no expense to yourself.

***Reminder: If you are retiring from federal service and thinking about working when you retire, you must consult Office of Counsel to determine if you may have any post-employment restrictions. Many folks are retiring and few are checking with Counsel to see if their post retirement plans present any potential conflicts of interest. Please talk to us before you retire.***

However, this rule does have some criteria that must be met for you to accept the deal. Your supervisor must approve the trip and make the following determinations:

(1) The trip does not interfere with the performance of your official duties and would in no way detract from readiness;

(2) DoD community relations with the immediate community and/or other legitimate DoD public affairs or military training interests are served by the support;

(3) It is appropriate to associate DoD, including the Army Corps of Engineers, with the event;

(4) The event is of interest and benefit to the local Civilian community, the Army Corps of Engineers, or any other part of DoD;

(5) The Huntsville Center is able and willing to provide the same support to comparable events;

(6) The use is not restricted by other statutes ... or regulations; and

(7) The normal admission fee is not designed as a fundraiser but will just reimburse the organization their costs.

Your supervisor approves, your speech is written and you are on your way!

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